Toxic gases in air in Delhi

1706. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the presence of toxic gases in Delhi's air has come down significantly during this year, corresponding to last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to supply low sulphur diesel in the Capital; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is due to various measures taken to bring down pollution in Delhi which include adoption of stringent emission norms, improvement in fuel quality and vehicle technology, phasing out of old commercial vehicles, promotion of use of clean fuel, optimisation of traffic flow and development of road infrastructure, closure of polluting and hazardous industrial units.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Low sulphur diesel (0.25%) is being supplied in entire Delhi from 1.4.1998. Further, it has been planned to extend supply of extra low sulphur diesel (0.05%) at select retail outlets in the Capital for new private (non commercial) vehicles conforming to Bharat Stage-II akin to Euro-II norms registered in the National Capital Region (NCR) from 1.4.2000.

Pollution by Power Plants, Industries and Vehicles

1707. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power plants, industries and vehicles are the biggest source of pollution;

(b) whether the growth rates of these polluting factors is high due to the imperatives of economic growth; and